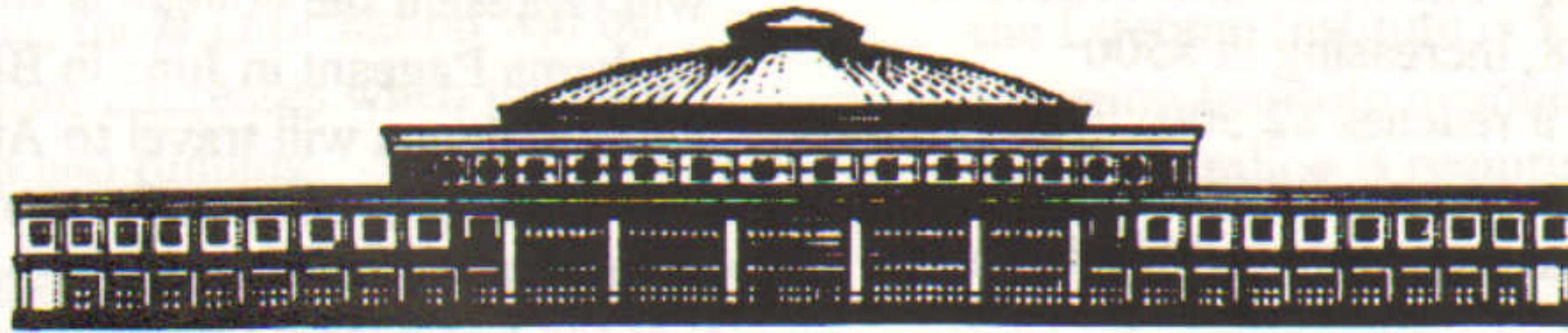


THE SHELTON CHRONICLE



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NEW HOPE FOR STUDENTS

The new HOPE Scholarship and other features included in the Federal Tax Relief Act of 1997 will make Shelton State an even better bargain than it has been in the past. The new incentives can help boost enrollments among both younger and returning students.

Although technically a tax-credit rather than a "scholarship," the HOPE legislation allows eligible students pursuing their first two years of postsecondary education to receive a tax credit for 100 percent of the first \$1,000 of tuition and fees and 50 percent of the second \$1,000 on their federal income tax. Students must be enrolled at least half-time (six credit hours) in a degree, certificate or other program leading to a recognized educational credential. The measure took effect January 1 and applies to education provided in academic periods beginning after this date.

The Clinton administration has made the HOPE Scholarship the centerpiece of its 1997 education/tax-cut package, vowing to make the first two years of college the new standard for U.S. students. The tax credit is one of a series of measures aimed at making a college education affordable to the majority of low and middle income students.

HOPE does come with a few strings attached. Individuals who earn more than \$50,000, and joint filers with adjusted gross incomes exceeding \$100,000 do not qualify. In addition, students who have been convicted of a felony for the possession or distribution of a controlled substance are ineligible. Students who receive other forms of financial aid such as a Pell Grant will have the amount of their eligibility for HOPE reduced by the amount of aid they receive.

Other features of the Tax Relief Act include:

Tax Credit beyond the first two years

College juniors, seniors, graduate students, returning adults and students attending less than half time are eligible for a new lifetime learning credit. The credit is worth 20% of the first \$5,000 of tuition and fees through 2002 and 20 percent of the first \$10,000 after that. The same income restrictions that apply to HOPE are in effect for this benefit. The credit is available for expenses paid after June 30, 1998.

Exemption of employer-provided assistance Section 127 of the IRS code allows working adults to exclude annually from taxable income up to \$5,250 in employer-provided educational assistance. The law is retroactive to May 31, 1997 and applies only to undergraduate programs.

Deduction of Student Loan Interest

The new law allows a deduction of up to \$2,500 per year of interest on education loans for expenses of students enrolled in higher education. The maximum deduction is \$1,000 in 1998, increasing in \$500 increments until it reaches \$2,500. The deduction is allowed only for the first 60 months of interest payments and has income level restrictions.

Savings Incentives

Individuals may make a penalty free withdrawal from an IRA to pay for higher education. The measure also creates education IRAs for children less than 18 years. Annual contributions to these accounts are limited to \$500 per beneficiary.

Exemption of Scholarships and Tuition Remissions

Sections 117 of the IRS Code excludes from taxable income amounts received as a qualified scholarship, as well as tuition remission support for relatives of employees of colleges and universities.

For additional information about the HOPE tax-credit, contact Shelton's Financial Aid office.

NEW FOOD SERVICE COMES TO SHELTON

SHELTON'S long-awaited new food service will officially open its doors on January 26. An agreement has been reached between Marriott - Sodexo and Shelton State. The three main food sources in the college's food court will be Taco Bell Express, Signatures, and Showtime Foods which will include salads, pastas, and grilled food.

1998 MISS SHELTON STATE PAGEANT

Seven contestants are entered in the 1998 Miss Shelton State Pageant. The winner will represent the college at the Miss Alabama Pageant in June in Birmingham. Miss Alabama will travel to Atlantic City, New Jersey, in August for the 1998 Miss America Pageant.

The Miss Shelton State Pageant is an official Miss America preliminary and will be held Friday, February 6, at 7 p.m. at the Hillcrest High School auditorium.

Shelton students entering the pageant are Beth Key, Angie Cooley, Faythe Smith, Charlie Spence, Karen Lawrence, Laura McCray, and Phiang-Aron (Penny) Sangsaygnaraj. Scarlett Walker is director of the 1998 pageant.

INTERNET UPDATE

By Debbie Grimes

The campus networking and Internet project is slowly making progress. The campus network has been outlined and many pieces are in place. The administration is currently determining what additional connections can be made during the current budget year. The Alabama Supercomputer Authority has installed the router, which is needed to connect the campus network to the telecommunications line, and the T-1 line from Shelton to the University of Alabama has been installed.

One significant step is that the college has been assigned a "domain name," which is similar to a mailing address. Our domain name is shelton.state.cc.al.usa (read as "shelton dot state dot c c dot a l dot usa). Almost 400 individual computer addresses (similar to P.O. box numbers) have been

requested for Shelton faculty, staff, administrators, and labs for the Martin and Fredd campuses. Initially, the college will use a simple share-ware e-mail package such as Eudora or Pine, which can be downloaded from Internet; more information will be provided about addresses when the mail system is up and running.

COLLEGE TO FORM ADULT STUDENT SUPPORT GROUP

IN ORDER TO BETTER SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE "ADULT STUDENT," A SPECIAL SUPPORT GROUP IS BEING FORMED BY THE COLLEGE.

This new support group will encourage open discussions on the challenges of students who are trying to work, care for a family, and attend college classes. The purpose of the group is to share solutions to common problems such as time management, child care, transportation, and other issues.

According to Philip Coleman, director of adult recruitment, it means a lot to the working adults to hear that people in their age groups are already attending Shelton. "If these students want to get together on campus on a regular basis, they could offer emotional support, encouragement, and inspiration to each other," Coleman said.

Faculty and staff are encouraged to serve as advisors and to invite "adult" students to join the support group. "Our faculty and staff with their experience of working with adult students could make a valuable contribution to the effectiveness of the support group," Coleman said.

SPECIAL SEMINARS

TWO special seminars will be offered this winter through Shelton State's Lifetime Learning Institute. The cost to attend each seminar for anyone who is not a member of the Lifetime Institute is \$10. For Lifetime Learning Institute members there is no cost. Pre-registration is required for both seminars.

The first special seminar will be **"SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY - An Alabama Tradition - Formal and Informal Entertaining"** and will be held on Thursday, January 29, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. The instructor is Jean O'Connor Snyder. The program will cover table settings, design, and manners in the Southern tradition. The seminar will be held at the Martin Campus in Room E CF#2.

In the second seminar Alabama's former First Lady Marsha Folsom will discuss **"COMMUNITY BY DESIGN - HOW TO CHANGE PUBLIC POLICY AT THE GRASS ROOTS."** This seminar will be held on Thursday, February 26, from 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Mrs. Folsom will address the characteristics of a community, developing leadership skills and networking techniques to direct public policy through grass roots organization.

Participants at both seminars are invited to bring a brown bag lunch to be enjoyed at the conclusion of the sessions. For additional information on these special seminars or on other classes offered through the Lifetime Learning Institute, call the Continuing Education office, 391-2360.

SURFING THE NET

BEGINNING with Spring Semester Split Term (March 10), Shelton will offer three courses dealing with the Internet. These courses will be offered in the new computer classroom on the C.A. Fredd Campus. The instructor is Brad Moore.

The first classes are CIS-140 Basic Web Page Development, CIS-185 Ethics and the Internet, and CIS 202 Introduction to the Information Highway. For additional information contact Brad Moore, 391-2640.

This new renovated electronic classroom is located in the old sewing room on the Fredd Campus. Thirty new computers have been purchased through Title III Program.

FACES 'N PLACES

***CONGRATULATIONS** to the Lady Bucs basketball team on their recent win over Calhoun Community College. Calhoun was ranked ninth in the nation for junior college women's basketball. In a close game, Shelton won 64-63.

***Like the postman**, nothing can stop Shelton instructor **Lyda Black**. Even with a broken hip, she has been at work in her wheelchair. Seriously, Lyda, we're sorry about your accident and hope you're feeling better soon.

*** Our deepest sympathy goes out to Ronald Range**, director of institutional research, on the loss of his wife, Bonita. Also, Jack Moore, retired CNC instructor, passed away during the Christmas holidays after a lengthy illness. All of the thoughts and prayers of everyone at Shelton go with the families.

***Shelton's Alumni Council** will meet on Tuesday, January 27, at 6 p.m. in the Public Relations Office on the Martin Campus. Plans will be made for the Spring and

Summer semesters. If you have not joined the Alumni Association yet, we hope that you will soon. Dues are only \$15 a year for an active membership. This past year, the Alumni Association sponsored a scholarship to the college, held the very successful bonfire during dedication week, and provided food for a family during the holidays.

Editor's Note: The SHELTON CHRONICLE is back on its normal publication schedule of twice a month. If you have any information you would like included in the CHRONICLE, please bring it by the Public Relations Office or send it by campus mail to Lucy Kubiszyn, P.O. Box 199.